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PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BREZINSKI

E.O. 12065 GDS 1/25/90 (RUSER, CLAUS W.) OR-M
TAGS: PGOV, PINR
SUBJECT: GENERAL GOODPASTER'S CALL ON PRESIDENT VIDELA

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. GENERAL GOODPASTER WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT VIDELA ON JANUARY 25 AT CHAPADMALAL, NEAR MAR DEL PLATA. THE MEETING HAD BEEN PRECEDED BY TWO DAYS OF TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR AND MINISTER OF ECONOMY MARTINEZ DE HOZ IN BUENOS AIRES. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES THE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS; SEPTEL COVERS PRESIDENT VIDELA'S REMARKS ON THE GRAINS ISSUE.

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3. GENERAL GOODPASTER SAID THAT HE WAS BRINGING GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE, THAT HIS MISSION WAS AN EXPRESSION OF U.S. GOODWILL, AND THAT HE HOPED TO CONTINUE WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA THE DISCUSSIONS HELD IN

BUENOS AIRES ON WAYS OF STRENGTHENING US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS. VIDELA SAID HE SHARED THESE FEELINGS OF GOODWILL.

4. AT PRESIDENT VIDELA'S INVITATION, GENERAL GOODPASTER

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REVIEWED AFGHANISTAN. HE STRESSED THE DANGER THAT SOVIET ACTION MIGHT SPILL OVER TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, THE THREAT TO REGIONAL STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE BASIC CHANGE IN THE US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP RESULTING

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FROM THE SOVIET ACTION. HE NOTED US READINESS TO APPLY MILITARY FORCE TO PROTECT VITAL INTERESTS. HE REVIEWED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL THE PRINCIPAL ACTIONS TAKEN OR INITIATED IN RESPONSE TO THE INVASION -- BY THE U.S. ALONE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATO ALLIES AND JAPAN, IN RESPECT TO NATIONS CLOSELY AFFECTED BY THE SOVIET ACTION; WITH OTHER NATIONS SUCH AS ARGENTINA, AND WITH RESPECT TO THE POSTURE AND READINESS OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES.

5. GOODPASTER SAID THE US DESIRES TO DEEPEN AND STRENGTHEN RELATIONS. THIS WAS A GENERAL OBJECTIVE. WE HAD SOUGHT ARGENTINE COOPERATION ON THE PARTICULAR MATTER OF GRAIN. WE WERE PREPARED TO CONSULT ON ANY OTHER ISSUE OF MUTUAL INTEREST. DIFFICULTIES OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE ENCOUNTERED IN THIS BUT OUR GOAL WAS TO RESTORE RELATIONS TO A NORMAL LEVEL.

6. PRESIDENT VIDELA EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR GENERAL GOODPASTER'S PRESENTATION. THIS PROBLEM, THE PRESIDENT SAID, ALSO WORRIES US. HE WOULD NOT INTEND TO EXPRESS A COURTESY BUT TO CONVEY A REALITY. ARGENTINA CONSIDERS ITSELF PART OF THE WEST. ARGENTINE LIFE WAS ROOTED IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION, IN WESTERN VALUES OF FREEDOM AND DIGNITY. ARGENTINA, BY THESE FACTS OF CULTURE AND GEOGRAPHY, WAS A MEMBER OF THE CONCERT OF WESTERN NATIONS.

7. ARGENTINE ACCEPTS, VIDELA SAID, THAT THERE MUST BE

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A LEADER OF THIS GROUP. THIS LEADER AT THE PRESENT MOMENT IN HISTORY IS THE U.S. TO PRESERVE ITS WAY OF LIFE ARGENTINA HAD FOUGHT A WAR THAT HAD BEEN FORCED UPON IT -- DIRTY AND IMPRECISE, HARSH, WITHOUT A CLEAR BEGINNING AND END. ARGENTINA HAD FOUGHT AN ENEMY WITHOUT UNIFORMS AND FLAGS. AS ANY WAR, IT HAD LEFT A LEGACY OF THE DEAD, WOUNDED, AND DISAPPEARED. REGRETTABLY, THIS WAR HAD TO BE PURSUED BY ARGENTINA, WITH ALL ITS CONSEQUENCES, DESPITE THE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING AND COMPASSION OF ITS FRIENDS. IT WAS NOT THE UNITED STATES WHICH WAS ASKING FOR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT. HE WAS MENTIONING THIS WITHOUT RESENTMENT.

8. IN CHARTING THEIR COURSE, VIDELA SAID, THE ARGENTINE LEADERSHIP MUST CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE POLITICAL SENSIBILITIES OF THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY IN FOREIGN MATTERS.

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ARGENTINES WERE A PROUD, NATIONALISTIC PEOPLE. THIS KEEN INTEREST IN POLITICS HAD IN THE PAST BEEN EXPLOITED FOR DEMAGOGIC ENDS, FOR PURPOSES NOT IN ARGENTINA'S INTEREST.

9. HE WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED, VIDELA SAID, BY THE MEAGER RESULTS OF ARGENTINA'S FOREIGN POLICY. ARGENTINA HAD BEEN MALIGNED AND DISCREDITED FOR ITS "DIRTY WAR." THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE FELT MISUNDERSTOOD. IT WOULD BE EASY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TRADE ON THIS SITUATION BY WHIPPING UP ARGENTINE NATIONALISM, AS HAD BEEN DONE THIRTY YEARS AGO IN THE BRADEN-PERON INCIDENT. HE HAD NOTED THIS POSSIBILITY TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE IN THEIR MEETING IN ROME, BUT HAD ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT HE WANTED TO ACT WITH RESPONSIBILITY. ARGENTINA'S VOCATION IS WITH THE WEST IN WHICH IT WANTS TO PLAY ITS PROPER ROLE.

10. BILATERAL RELATIONS SINCE THE ROME MEETING HAD IMPROVED IN A FEW AREAS BUT REMAINED STATIONARY IN MOST OTHERS.

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11. GENERAL GOODPASTER SAID HE WISHED TO MAKE A PERSONAL COMMENT. HE HAD CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROBLEMS OF TERRORISM IN AN IMPRECISE WAR; HE ALSO

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PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BREZINSKI

UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEMS WHICH ARISE TO GIVE STABLE GOVERNMENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXIST. THERE WAS NEED FOR A BROAD PERSPECTIVE AND FRAMEWORK FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP, WITHIN WHICH SPECIFIC ISSUES COULD BE ADDRESSED. THIS, HOWEVER, DID NOT MEAN THAT SPECIFIC ISSUES SHOULD BE LINKED. WE HOPED THERE COULD BE CLOSE AND FREQUENT CONSULTATIONS TO FIND COMMON GROUND IN A WORLD SITUATION THAT IS DANGEROUS FOR ALL OF US. THE CURRENT ROUND OF TALKS HAD IMPROVED COMMUNICATION. WE WISHED TO CARRY THEM FORWARD IN FUTURE CONSULTATIONS.

12. GOODPASTER SAID HE APPRECIATED VIDELA'S REMARKS ON THE GRAINS ISSUE, AND HIS AGREEMENT THAT THE WEST MUST DEMONSTRATE SERIOUSNESS IN ITS RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET CHALLENGE. PRESIDENT CARTER, EARLY IN HIS ADMINISTRATION, HAD STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT USE FOOD AS A WEAPON. WHEN THE PRESIDENT HAD SET FORTH THIS POLICY HE HAD ASSUMED THE SOVIETS WOULD HONOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND COMMITMENTS. WE WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPIER IF ARGENTINA HAD AGREED TO IMPOSE DESTINATION CONTROLS. WE APPRECIATE THE ARGENTINE POSITION, BUT WE ARE ASKING FOR SUPPORT IN THE SENSE THAT THE US MEASURE NOT BE VITIATED BY ADDITIONAL GRAIN SHIPMENTS FROM OTHERS. EVEN IT NOT

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WHOOLY EFFECTIVE, THE IMPACT OF OUR EMBARGO WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL, AND PARTICULARLY SO IF THE SOVIETS SEE THAT THE US IS NOT ALONE BUT IS ACTING IN CONCERT WITH OTHER WESTERN NATIONS. THE US WOULD STAY ITS COURSE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE SOVIETS WILL REVERSE THEIR POLICY IN AFGHANISTAN; BUT THEY CANNOT HOPE TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONS WITH US AS LONG AS THEY CONTINUE ON THEIR PRESENT COURSE.

13. GENERAL GOODPASTER THANKED PRESIDENT VIDELA FOR HIS STATEMENTS OF THE ARGENTINE POSITION AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT VIDELA'S VIEWS FULLY TO HIS GOVERNMENT.
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